

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-11 LAB-06 NSAE-00

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TAGS: ETRD, AORG, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD, TDB XIV, ITEM 5, PLANS FOR UNCTAD IV

SUMMARY: PLENARY DEBATE OF AGENDA ITEM 5 CONCLUDED AUGUST 30. GROUP OF 77 UNPREPARED TO TAKE POSITION ON RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY SEC GEN. GROUP B AND AFRICANS MADE GROUP STATEMENTS; DELEGATIONS FROM GROUP D AND LATIN AMERICANS REFLECTED GROUP POSITIONS. EXCEPT FOR AFRICANS, THERE WAS GENERAL INITIAL SUPPORT FOR SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROCEDURAL PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

1. WITH EXCEPTION OF SPOKESMAN FOR AFRICAN DELEGATIONS, DELEGATIONS WHICH SPOKE ON AGENDA ITEM 5 (FOURTH SESSION OF THE UN CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT) SUPPORTED PROCEDURAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF SECRETARY GENERAL (TD/B/512), IN PARTICULAR WITH REGARD TO:

(A) A "SELECTIVE" AGENDA WHICH WOULD FOCUS ON MAJOR, CONCRETE ISSUES ON WHICH THE CONFERENCE COULD BE EXPECTED TO TAKE ACTION;

(B) A MUCH SHORTER SESSION THAN IN THE PAST, CONSISTENT WITH THE MORE RESTRICTED AGENDA AND THE EXPECTATION THAT DELEGATIONS WILL BE HEADED BY OFFICIALS AT THE "HIGH POLICY MAKING LEVELS";

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(C) CAREFUL AND TIMELY PREPARATIONS WITHIN THE UNCTAD MACHINERY, IN PARTICULAR BY MEANS OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD NO LESS THAN TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE; AND

(D) LIMITED DOCUMENTATION.

2. SPOKESMAN FOR GROUP B (AUSTRALIA) READ STATEMENT WHICH EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR "CAREFUL AND PAINSTAKING PREPARATION" FOR CONFERENCE AND URGED CONCENTRATION ON "MOST CRITICAL ISSUES... WHICH GAVE MOST PROMISE OF YIELDING SIGNIFICANT RESULTS." HE NOTED, IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT DECISIONS REACHED AT CONFERENCE SHOULD REPRESENT GENUINE AGREEMENT AMONG PARTICIPANTS.

3. ASIAN COUNTRIES DID NOT SPEAK IN A GROUP, ADMITTING THAT SUBJECT HAD NOT BEEN "EXTENSIVELY DISCUSSED" IN GROUP. PHILLIPINES AND IRAQ SPOKE ALONG LINES PARA 1 ABOVE.

4. THREE LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATIONS, CLEARLY REFLECTING VIEWS OF LA GROUP, PROPOSED THAT FIFTEENTH SESSION OF BOARD BE POSTPONED TO EARLY OCTOBER 1975 IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO TAKE RESULTS OF UNGA SPECIAL SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 1975 INTO ACCOUNT IN DRAWING UP PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR CONFERENCE.

5. KENYA, SPEAKING FOR AFRICANS, RAISED AMJOR NOTE OF DISSENT WITH REGARD TO KEY QUESTION OF RESTRICTING AGENDA TO SELECTED ISSUES. HE ARGUED THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE FREE TO DISCUSS ALL IMPORTANT QUESTIONS, NOT JUST THOSE "READY FOR DECISION." HE DISAGREED WITH SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL THAT LENGTH OF CONFERENCE BE CUT BY ELIMINATING GENERAL DEBATE ON GROUNDS THAT UNCTAD WAS FAMOUS FOR GENERATING NEW IDEAS.

6. SEVERAL GROUP D (EUROPEAN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES) SPOKE IN CLEAR EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT THEIR SPECIAL INTERESTS (E.G., "TRADE RELATIONS AMONG NATIONS HAVING DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS") NOT BE DROPPED IN RUST TO LIMIT AGENDA.

7. KENYA CONFIRMED ITS INVITATION TO HOST CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI IN MAY 1976 TIME FRAME NOW CONTEMPLATED. BOARD IS EXPECTED TO ACCEPT THIS OFFER.

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8. COMMENT: IT ALREADY CLEAR FROM THIS EARLY DISCUSSION THAT SELECTION OF "KEY ISSUES" FOR CONFERENCE AGENDA WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. WHILE GROUP B AND D STRESSED NEED FOR EARLY DETERMINATION OF AGENDA ITEMS, MOST LDC'S NOTED THAT AGENDA WOULD BE DETERMINED, NOT ONLY DECLARATION AND PROGRAM OF ACTION EMANATING FROM UNGA SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION (AS PROPOSED BY SECGEN), BUT ALSO BY RESULTS OF MID-TERM REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOP-

MENT STRATEGY AND 1975 UNGA SPECIAL SESSION, AS WELL AS BY DEVELOPMENT IN MONETARY AND TRADE NEGOTIATION FIELDS. LDC SPEAKERS DID NOT MENTION, BUT GROUP B DELEGATIONS HAVE NOTED, THAT GROUP OF 77 WILL HOLD NOW-TRADITIONAL MINISTERIAL-LEVEL CONFERENCE BEFORE UNCTAD IV, AT WHICH PRESSURES WILL BE GREAT TO PRODUCE OMNIBUS-STYLE DECLARATION ALONG LINES OF LIMA DECLARATION, NON-ALIGNED ECONOMIC DECLARATION OF ALGIERS, AND PROGRAM OF ACTION.

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